

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims will stand as follows:

Please cancel claims 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17 and 18 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A biologically pure culture of microorganism *Bacillus subtilis takemi* having deposit No. FERM BP-6589, which is capable of reducing nitrates, contains chitin and/or chitosan in its cell walls and has a smell of coffee.

Claims 2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A composition for improving soil comprising the microorganism of claim 1.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A composition for treating organic waste through fermentation comprising the microorganism of claim 1.

Claims 9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A feed additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A composition for reducing bitterness comprising the microorganism of claim 1.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Original) A food additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.

Claims 17-18. (Cancelled)